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The Hall index of a subgroup of a free group.

The Hall index of a finitely generated subgroup of a free group was defined by Marshall Hall. It is difficult to compute or estimate. The Kurosh subgroup theorem implies it is submultiplicative, in the sense that the Hall index of an intersection is less than or equal the product of the Hall indices. This gives bounds on the rank of such intersections. (Received September 21, 2009)